

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 ACDA-07 BIB-01  
/082 W

-----290810Z 019208 /17

R 281450Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2353  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSULATE MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0796

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SHUM, CZ  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY FONMIN

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME AT DINNER MARCH 17, DEPUTY FOREIGN  
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MINISTER VEJVODA WAS MORE OPEN ON SEVERAL TOPICS THAN IS USUAL  
AMONG CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS.

2. VAN DER STOEL VISIT: VEVJODA SAID THAT IN POST MORTEM ON  
THE NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT, WHICH RESULTED IN A  
WELL-PUBLICIZED CONTRETEMPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN MINISTER  
CHNOUPEK CONCLUDED THAT THE REGIME HAD HANDLED THE VISIT WRONG;

THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE COULD HAVE BEEN KEPT LOW-KEY, IF YUGOSLAV ADVICE HAD BEEN FOLLOWED AND THE CHARTER 77 SPOKESMEN HAD BEEN GIVEN AN ENFORCED HOLIDAY AT A REMOTE SPA WHILE VAN DER STOEL WAS IN PRAGUE.

3. CHARTER 77 - VEJVODA SAID THERE ARE DIVISIONS IN THE REGIME ON HANDLING OF THE CHARTER ISSUE. HE CLAIMED THE ISSUE IS MAKING IT HARDER FOR MODERATES, AMONG WHOM HE NAMED HUSAK AND IMPLIED HIS BOSS FONMIN CHNOUPEK IS ALSO NUMBERED AMONG THEM, TO MAINTAIN THEIR RESISTANCE TO HARD-LINE PRESSURES FOR TOUGHER MEASURES AGAINST DISSIDENTS.

4. CSCE/BELGRADE: VEJVODA SAID GOC IS OPPOSED TO A POSTPONEMENT OF THE BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP MEETING, WHICH IS BEING MOOTED IN SOME CIRCLES. THE GOC WOULD PREFER TO GET IT OVER WITH ON SCHEDULE. GOC DELEGATE TO BELGRADE WILL MOST LIKELY BE EITHER DEPUTY FONMIN (US AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS) SPACIL OR AMBASSADOR HANDL, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC POLICY QUESTIONS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CSCE AND BELGRADE PREPARATIONS.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICS: VEJVODA CLAIMS THAT BOTH HE AND SPACIL, WHO HAVE CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE US, ARE ACCUSED OF BEING SOFT ON THE US WHENEVER THEY TRY TO EXPLAIN USG ACTIONS AND POSITIONS, BUT HE ALLEGES THAT THEY HOLD THEIR OWN. COMMENT: WE AGREE THEY APPEAR TO BEAR UP WELL UNDER ACCUSATIONS, WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAVE NOT HELD BACK THEIR CAREERS. END COMMENT. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS FOUND IT BENEFICIAL THAT I AM CALLING ON A BROAD RANGE OF CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS, PRESUMABLY MEANING THAT MY CALLS HELP HIM AND SPACIL IN THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFORTS AT EXPLAINING US VIEWS. COMMENT: THIS REALLY DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL MAY AT TIMES FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SET UP ANY CALLS FOR ME FOR WEEKS AT A TIME AND AT OTHERS, AS IT HAS RECENTLY, COMES THROUGH WITH A CLOSELY SPACED SERIES OF APPOINTMENTS. THE RECENT SPATE OF HIGH-LEVEL CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD COULD INDICATE AN EFFORT TO KEEP SOME LINES OPEN WITH US DURING THE CURRENT EAST-WEST HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE.

6. SHIFTS IN SOVIET LEADERSHIP: I FOUND ESPECIALLY INTERESTING VEJVODA'S UNCOMMONLY FRANK REMARKS ON THE RECENT PROMOTION OF KATUSHEV TO DEPUTY PREMIER AND SOVIET PERM REP TO CEMA. VEJVODA INDICATED THE LEADERSHIP IN PRAGUE WOULD BE STUDYING THIS MOVE WITH GREATEST ATTENTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER KATUSHEV WAS BEING PROMOTED OR DEMOTED. IN EITHER CASE, ITS IMPORT WOULD BE FELT IN CEMA AND WOULD THUS AFFECT CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

COMMENT: WE ASSUME CZECHOSLOVAKS WILL ALSO STUDY THE KATUSHEV RESHUFFLE AS A POSSIBLE HARBINGER OF FURTHER CHANGES IN THE AGING SOVIET LEADERSHIP, WHICH COULD LEAD TO CHANGES IN

THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY-STATE LEADERSHIP AS WELL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SHUM, CZ, US, CSCE, (JEJVODA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009